NOTES

THE following lectures in pure Science are being delivered this term in Oxford. Prof. Phillips on the Heat of the Interior of the Earth, Ancient Climate, Earthquakes and Volcanos. Prof. Story Maskelyne two courses of lectures;—the first course of four lectures "On the projection of crystals, and on the relations of morphological symmetry to the distribution of physical and especially of optical characters;" second course "On lithology mineralogically considered." Prof. Lawson on Structural and Physiological Botany. He also proposes to make arrangements with his classes for botanical walks. The Professor of Astronomy will give practical instruction in the use of Astronomical Instruments at the Observatory at the Museum. The Chemical and Physical Laboratories are each open as usual, special courses of instruction being given in each. The Professor of Anatomy and Physiology proposes to form classes for practical instruction in Physiology and Anatomy. The Hope Professor of Zoology is engaged in the classification of the Hope, Burchell, and other collections. Dr. Lee's Reader in Chemistry is lecturing on the Non-metallic Elements, the Lee's Reader in Anatomy is lecturing on Comparative Anatomy, and the Lee's Reader in Physics on the Mechanical Theory of Heat, and on Hydro mechanics.

AT the last meeting of the Royal Geographical Society, the President announced the Royal and other awards for the year 1872, made by the Council, as follows:—*Founder's Gold Medal.*—Colonel H. Yule, C.B., for his important geographical works "Cathay and the Way Thither," and "Marco Polo." *Patron's Gold Medal.*—Mr. R. B. Shaw, for his adventurous journey to Yarkand and Kashgar, and his observations for fixing the longitude of the former place. *A Gold Watch.*—Lieut. G. C. Musters, R.N., for his journey in Patagonia. 25*l.*—Karl Mauch, for his discoveries in South-East Africa. *Schools Prizes.*—PHYSICAL GEOGRAPHY.—*Gold Medal*—S. E. Spring Rice (Eton College). *Bronze Medal*—A. S. Butler (Liverpool College). *Honourably Mentioned*—C. Penrose (Haileybury); E. Dickson (Cheltenham); J. R. White (Liverpool Institute); H. De Vere Vane (Eton). POLITICAL GEOGRAPHY.—*Gold Medal*—W. G. Collingwood (Liverpool College). *Bronze Medal*—W. C. Graham (Eton). *Honourably Mentioned*—R. H. Sayle (Uppingham); W. L. Kingsford (Rossall); H. E. Dickson (Rossall).

THE *conversazione* of the Royal Society on Saturday evening last was a highly successful one. The company, notwithstanding the counter attraction of the Duke of Edinburgh's reception at the Royal Albert Hall, was a brilliant one, and many of the objects and apparatus exhibited were of great interest. There was a beautiful series of photographs of landscape scenery, the geysers, and mud-springs in the regions of the Yellowstone River explored by Prof. Hayden, exhibited by Mr. A. Tylor; and some of the early photographs of M. Niépce de St. Victor, showing effects of colour; and a collection of Madreporaria dredged up by Count Pourtales from the sea-floor in the course of the Gulf Stream, exhibited by Prof. Duncan. Mr. Browning and Messrs. Elliott Bros. had, as usual, a number of telescopic and spectroscopic instruments.

THE Senate of the University of London has this year re-elected all the old examiners in the Faculties of Science and Medicine, with the exception of the two in Forensic Medicine, the new examiners being Dr. Arthur Gamgee and Prof. Henry Maudsley.

AN Inaugural Meeting of the French Association for the Advancement of Science was held last week at Paris under the presidency of M. Claude Bernard; when the committee of management was elected as follows: MM. Claude Bernard, president; Broca, Delaunay, d'Eichthal, de Quatrefages, Wurtz, Cornu, secretary, and G. Masson, treasurer. It is still undecided whether to hold the first meeting, in August next, at Lyons, Bordeaux, or Lille. M. Wurtz delivered an address on the character and objects of the Association, in which he announced that the requisite guarantee fund of 100,000 fr. is already subscribed, and will probably be considerably exceeded. The movement appears to be meeting with a hearty response from all the leading men of science in France; it is welcomed as an aid in the regeneration of their country, by promoting a spread of scientific knowledge and a love of science throughout the provinces; and we trust it will also have the effect of cementing a closer alliance between French science and that of the other countries of Europe.

THE *Engineer* announces the death, at his residence near London, on April 15, at the age of 84, of Mr. Augustus Siebe. Born in Saxony, he served early in life against the French in the Prussian army; and after the return of peace employed himself first in watch-making, and afterwards in engineering. The perfection of the diving apparatus in particular engaged his attention, and to him are due many of the improvements now in constant use. In this capacity he was sole maker to the Admiralty, his apparatus having been used with great success in the removal of the wreck of the *Royal George.*

DR. PETTIGREW, F.R.S., will deliver a course of lectures on the Physiology of the Circulation in the Lower Animals and in Plants, at the Royal College of Surgeons, Edinburgh, each Friday afternoon, at 4 o'clock, during May, June, and July.

PROF. MAX MULLER gave a public lecture on April 24, at the Taylor Institution, Oxford, "On Darwin's View of Language." There was a large attendance.

THE old Ashmolean Society at Oxford, which was revived last term after a lengthened period of quietude, met on Monday last in the University Museum, when communications were made to the Society by Rev. R. Main, F.R.S., "On the Breaks of Continuity in the Mean Daily Temperature in the months of April and May," and by Mr. A. G. Vernon Harcourt, F.R.S., "On the Sulphur Compounds in Goal Gas, and the means of removing them."

THE garden of the Acclimatisation Society of Paris, ruined during the siege, is about to be reopened. A great part of the damage has been repaired, the ornamental and horticultural parts have been replaced, and there are already many animals in the park.

AT a recent meeting of the French Acclimatisation Society, M. de Grandmont called attention to the project of the Government to establish a grand piscicultural establishment at Montbéliard, to replace that at Huningue, now passed into the hands of the Germans. Very successful establishments of a similar character are now in operation at La Buisse and at Clermont Ferrand (Puy-de-Dôme); the latter, under the direction of M. Rico, furnishing annually not less than 30,000 ova of trout for replenishing the various streams in the department.

THE following excursions are arranged by the Geologists' Association during the present month:—Saturday, May 4, excursion to Erith and Crayford, under the direction of Mr. J. Logan Lobley. The party will leave Cannon Street Station by the North Kent train at 2·10 P.M. for Erith, and will, upon arriving at Erith, inspect the fine section of the Thanet Sands overlying the chalk, exposed at that place. Subsequently the party will proceed to Crayford, and visit the extensive excavations in the Pleistocene Deposits from which have been derived the large collection of Mammalian Remains in the possession of Dr. Spurrel, and inspected by the Association last session.—Saturday, May 11, visit to the British Museum, guided by Mr. Henry Woodward. Members will meet at the Museum, Great Russell

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Street, at 2 P.M., and proceed to the Palæontological Department, where a portion of the collection will be described. —Whit-Monday and Tuesday, May 20 and 21, Excursion to Bath (one or two days); directors, Mr. Charles Moore, and the Rev. H. H. Winwood. Monday: Assemble at the Half Moon Hotel (near the Railway Station) at 1 o'clock; proceed to the Museum, the valuable and exceedingly interesting palæontological contents of which will be described by the founder, Mr. Charles Moore; then visit Weston and Twerton, and inspect, under the guidance of the Rev. Mr. Winwood, sections of Lower Lias (*Ammonites Bucklandi* and *A. angulatus* zones). Proceed to Newbridge Hill, where are sections of White Lias and the Rhætic series.—Tuesday: Hampton Down—fine sections of the Great Oolite, and a probable representative of the Bradford Clay; upper beds very fossiliferous (*Terebratula cardium*, *Terebratella Buckmani*, *Crania Antiquorum*, &c., with Corals and Sponges). Dundas in the Bradford Valley —sections showing Marlstone, Upper Lias, and Inferior Oolite. North Bank of Canal—section of Inferior Oolite (*Rhynchonella spinosa* zone), and Fuller's Earth. Cross the Avon to Freshford —Mammiliferous River deposits, yielding *Ovibos moschatus*.

THE prophetic announcements of Prof. Agassiz in regard to the discoveries he intended to make during his proposed deep-sea dredgings in the southern waters continue, according to *Harper's Weekly*, to be realised, as we learn from a letter to Prof. Peirce, dated at Rio on the 12th of February last. The weather had not been favourable for dredging for some time; but a suitable occasion presenting itself, the work was prosecuted for one day, with very interesting results. The first discovery mentioned by the professor was that of a living *Pecten*, very similar in general appearance to a fossil form known as *P. paradoxus*, found in Germany, and which he had been inclined to consider a distinct genus, on account of certain peculiarities which are not shared by any living shells known up to this discovery. The specimen found is, however, strictly referable to the same genus as the *paradoxus*, especially as it has the same prominent radiating ribs arising on the inner surface of the shell valve, to which the fossil is indebted for its specific name. Although of very small dimensions, being scarcely two-thirds of an inch in diameter, it is yet a specimen of very great significance. The second discovery was that of a very remarkable crustacean, and is, in part, the realisation of the expectation of finding "genera reminding us of some amphipods, and isopods aping still more closely the trilobites than *Serolis*." A specimen answering fully to this statement was taken in forty-five fathoms, and at first sight seemed like an ordinary isopod, with a broad, short, flat body. This, however, is not referable to any of the orders or families of Milne-Edwards or Dana, and, for reasons adduced, it has very striking relations to the trilobites, and is, indeed, like them, one of those types combining the structural features of several independent groups. It resembles the trilobites in the fact that the head is distinct from the thoracic regions; and the large faceted eyes and the facial suture across the cheeks connect it so closely that but for the presence of antennæ, which project from the lower side of the anterior margin of the buckler, the resemblance would amount to an absolute identity in structure with the trilobites. The character of the mouth is also that of the trilobite; while the antennæ cause its reference to the isopods. For this new genus the name of *Tomocaris Peircei* is proposed.

DETAILS have been received of the earthquake which devastated Antioch on April 3, to which we referred last week. The Greek church, a strong stone-arched structure, built only a few years ago, and capable of holding 500 or 600 persons, is utterly ruined —one side and the entire roof are gone. The American Protestant church and premises are also greatly injured, and four persons of their small community were killed, though the Mission families are all safe. The number of killed and injured cannot be ascertained with any approach to accuracy, and, of course, flying rumours are abundant, one man saying that he thought there must be 1,000 killed, while another said 500, and a third 250, which is, perhaps, within the truth. There was time from the beginning of the first shock to its close for many to escape the falling houses or walls. Several smaller and lighter shocks occurred for an hour or two afterwards, but not sufficiently strong to shake down buildings. These shocks continued at intervals through the next night; and another, more distinct and wave-like, was felt to shake the house with a loud, hollow, rumbling noise, about half-past six the next morning. The first shock was immediately preceded by a rumbling and creaking of the joints of the window and door frames, to which a louder noise, like thunder, succeeded, and then walls and buildings fell. The old Roman bridge of four arches is rent in several places until the water can be seen through it from above; a part of the parapet wall has also been shaken off, and the arch above the city door at its east end has been hurled down, and lies almost whole. Much damage has been done to houses in the lower part of the town, and many of the inhabitants are now to be seen encamping around in the fields or plain. The shocks appear to have continued, with less severity, for several days. One man declared he counted forty-four shocks within twenty-four hours after the first one. They were all accompanied by a noise like distant thunder or artillery, and produced a tremor of the ground; but no fresh ruin has been made by any of them, except the first great shock about 8 A.M. of the 3rd ult.

EARTHQUAKES are becoming almost as frequent in the Murrumbidgee district in Australia as in New Zealand. The Wagga *Express* reports that recently (in January last) a smart shock was experienced at Crabtree station and several other places on the Upper River. Since June 8—when the first and, with one exception, the heaviest of the shocks was experienced—at least a dozen distinct ones have been felt in this district.

THE Italian Society of Spectroscopists is already doing work which must command the attention of the scientific world. The special object of the Society is to collate the observations of all Italian astronomers, so as to study daily the number, position, size, and form of the protuberances, spots, and faculæ. Three numbers are already published of their *Memorie*, containing the following papers:—An Introduction by Prof. Tacchini, of the Observatory of Palermo, expounding the object and resources of the Society; a memoir by M. Lorenzoni, of the Observatory of Padua, on the spectral analysis of the protuberances; numerical tables to convert into heliocentric coordinates the apparent position of protuberances or spots; a memoir by P. Secchi on a new micrometer for measuring the height of the protuberances; an article by Prof. Tacchini on the comparison of the observations of protuberances made simultaneously in July 1871, at Palermo by himself, and at Rome by Secchi; observations on the solar protuberances and their distribution, by P. Secchi, spectroscopic images of the solar margin, made at Rome, Palermo, and Padua, by Secchi, Tacchini, and Lorenzoni on December 11 and 12, 1871, with a coloured plate. This youngest outcome of solar physics is deserving of the heartiest support of men of science in this country.

ACCORDING to the Sydney *Herald*, the schooner *Surprise* has lately made a visit to the coast of New Guinea, penetrating fifteen miles up the Manoi River. Contrary to the general impression, the natives, who were hitherto supposed to be ferocious in their character and opposed to the visits of strangers, were found to be mild and gentle in disposition. They were of the Malay stock, and had never seen white people before. On the departure of the schooner, under Captain Paget, they exhibited every demonstration of sorrow, the women weeping and the men accompanying the party to a considerable distance

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